

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PPT-02 SCA-01 VO-03 SAJ-01 SR-02

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R 131328Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8695

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 7049

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS CGEN SREF (SCHNEIDER, MARY)
(ZOLINA, RIMA) (MINSTER, JOSEPH)

REF: A) STATE 89523 NOTAL; B) MOSCOW 6238; C) STATE 82048

1. MAY 12 MFA OFFICER PHONED CONSOFF AND, REFERRING TO EMBASSY'S APRIL 10 NOTE INQUIRING ABOUT ACQUISITION OF SOVIET CITIZENSHIP BY SCHNEIDER, MINISTER AND ZOLINA, ASKED HOW IT OCCURRED THAT SUBJECTS HAD LEFT USSR BUT WERE APPLYING FOR DOCUMENTATION TO ENTER UNITED STATES. HE ASKED ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THEY HAD LEFT USSR. CONSOFF REPLIED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT SUBJECTS WERE IN ROME, AND HAD DEPARTED FROM HERE WITH EXIT PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL. MFA OFFICER DESCRIBED CASE AS VERY COMPLICATED, BUT SEEMED SATISFIED WITH ANSWER.

2. COMMENT: SOVIETS ARE OBVIOUSLY WELL AWARE THAT LARGE PORTION OF SOVIET EMIGRANTS FOR ISRAEL CHANGE DIRECTIONS AT VIENNA AND GO THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES. PRACTICE MAY BE MORE PALATABLE TO SOVIETS TO EXTENT IT IS NOT FLAUNTED. EMBASSY HAD NOT SPECIFIED IN APRIL 10 NOTE HOW SCHNEIDER, MINSTER AND ZOLINA LEFT USSR, ALTHOUGH NOTE CITED SOVIET EXIT VISA NUMBERS.

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3. SINCE CONSOFF'S REPLY WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD PERHAPS MFA WILL PROCEED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REQUESTED AND FURNISH IT TO EMBASSY. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT MFA HAS PROBLEM WITH ANSWERING SUCH A QUERY ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WHO OBTAINED EXIT PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL BUT WENT ELSEWHERE. IF SO MFA MAY NOT ANSWER FOR SOME TIME, IF AT ALL.

4. IF MFA DOES NOT ANSWER IN NEAR FUTURE, WE SUGGEST THAT DEPT AGAIN REVIEW QUESTION DISCUSSED IN REFS A AND B RE POSSIBILITY OF PERMITTING SCHNEIDER, MINSTER AND ZOLINA TO PROCEED TO US AS PAROLLEES OR CITIZENS WITH LIMITED-VALIDITY DOCUMENTATION, PENDING RECEIPT OF KNA'S ANSWER TO EMBASSY'S QUERY.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT IN THE FUTURE WE AVOID TO EXTENT POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO MFA IN CASES OF EMIGRANTS "TO ISRAEL" APPLYING INSTEAD FOR ADMISSION US. SINCE DEPT TOO HAS NOTED SENSITIVITY THIS ISSUE (REF C AND PREVIOUS), EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT PREFERABLE TO AVOID DISCUSSING WITH MFA CASES OF EMIGRANTS WHO DEPARTED WITH USCH DOCUMENTS. FORCING SOVIET GOVT TO FOCUS ON SUCH CASES MIGHT JEOPARDIZE SOVIET TOLERANCE OF THE D PRACTICE OF SUCH EMIGRANTS CHANGING DESTINATIONS AFTER EXITING.
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